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I.M.C. Beth-bow
10/12/01

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Kazuhiko Hachiya, et al.

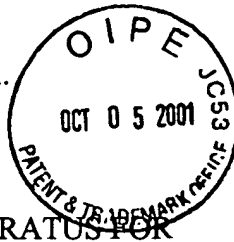
Serial No.: 08/992,770

Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR
AUTOMATIC SENDING OF E-MAIL
AND AUTOMATIC SENDING CONTROL
PROGRAM SUPPLYING MEDIUM

Filing Date: December 17, 1997

Case No.: 112857-118

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231



Examiner: T. Vu

Group Art Unit: 2152

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RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION AND RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

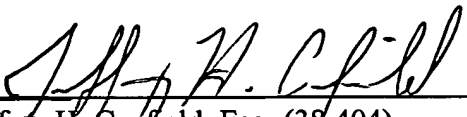
S I R:

In the Office Action dated July 30, 2001, the Examiner imposed a restriction requirement upon the Applicant pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §121. According to the Examiner, the pending claims relate to three distinct inventions. The Examiner therefore has required a restriction between three groups of claims. Group I includes claims 1-24, 49, 51-70, 93-106, 113-117, 121-124, which are drawn to an e-mail automatic control system. Group II includes claims 71-92, 112, 119, 120 which are drawn to a method of providing a virtual agent, and Group III includes claims 107-111, 118, and 125 which are drawn to a method of controlling a virtual agent parameter.

Applicants hereby elect the claims of Group I, namely claims 1-24, 49, 51-70, 93-106, 113-117 and 121-124. Please cancel the remaining claims without prejudice.

If any additional fees are due in connection with this response, the office is authorized to deduct said fees from Deposit Account No. 02-1818. If such a withdrawal is made, please indicate the Attorney Docket No. (0112857-118) on the account statement.

Respectfully submitted,



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